

but differs from it in having the crop rusty brown (instead of vinous chocolate), and in having the crown dark brown (instead of black), with the rusty brown of the forehead prolonged into a stripe over each eye.

The genus *Sarciophorus*, like *Lobivanellus*, has wattles in front of the eye, but has been separated on account of its members having only three toes; the hallux, or hind toe, being entirely absent. The type, *S. tectus*, like the present species, has no spur on the wing.

The genus *Sarciophorus* comprises four species:—

1. *S. tectus*, from N.E. Africa and Senegambia.
2. *S. superciliosus*, Cameroons and Lake Tanganyika.
3. *S. malabarica*, India.
4. *S. pectoralis*, Australia.

*S. superciliosus*, when adult, may be readily distinguished from all other Plovers by its pale, rufous-shaded forehead, its black crown, and chocolate-coloured crop.

At all ages it may be diagnosed from every other species of the group by its combination of four characters—small wattle, red legs, no hind toe, and white outer tail-feathers.

---

XLII.—*Note on Baza ceylonensis*. By SAMUEL BLIGH, of Catton, Coslanda, Ceylon. (Communicated by J. H. GURNEY.)

TOWARDS the end of April I was delighted to find that a pair of *Baza ceylonensis* had taken up their quarters in a piece of old forest of about five or six acres left on this estate, near my bungalow, where the old trees have been thinned out, but a few giants are left, and these they particularly haunted. I would not molest the birds, in the hope they might nest, but they only stayed two or three weeks. Their sailing high in the air over the trees and playing in the air was a treat to see; and their peculiar tumbling, like that of a Tumbler Pigeon, was especially pretty, though the male only seemed to do this. He would first rise, with a few laboured flaps of the wings, almost perpendicularly, perhaps at an angle of 70°

or thereabouts; but at whatever angle the bird rose, by a few flaps it attained a perfectly perpendicular position, as if suspended by its bill from the zenith, with its wings quite closed for a perceptible time; it then descended rapidly fifteen or twenty feet in a half-falling half-diving sort of way, but without turning a somersault, though the bird changed its position from head upwards to the reverse so suddenly as to cause it to appear to turn over. This play it would repeat three or four times in one place, and again further onwards; its mate was generally within fifty or a hundred yards, but sometimes much nearer.

I particularly noticed the call-notes; these were like *kè-wēē-kè-streer*, often repeated when the bird was playing; at other times quite a different call, like *itta-jee-ow*, repeated at short intervals.

I noticed that these birds now and again dashed off from their perches into the foliage of the tops of the trees, and secured some prey which they carried in their claws to a perch to eat.

---

XLIII.—*On the Structure of the Barbs, Barbules, and Barbicels of a Typical Pennaceous Feather.* By RICHARD S. WRAY, B.Sc. (London).

(Plate XII.)

HAVING occasion to illustrate the above structure in the Index Museum of the British Museum (Natural History), Professor Flower and myself came to the conclusion that the best way to do so would be by the preparation of a model, the making of which I undertook, and consequently I had to go thoroughly into the appearances presented by the parts specified. I find that although my observations correspond in all main particulars with what is already known, there are some points, especially in the relations of the proximal barbules to each other, which have not previously been fully appreciated. These points, and the fact that no good figure appears to exist giving at all a full idea of the completeness